

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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INTERIOR ANNOUNCES SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BAND-TAILED PIGEONS, WOODCOCK, RAILS, GALLINULES, SNIPE AND DOVES

Hunting regulations for band-tailed pigeons, woodcock, rails, gallinules, common snipe and doves this fall and winter will be slightly more liberal than last year, according to Assistant Secretary Leslie L. Glasgow, who heads the Interior Department's programs for fish, wildlife and parks.

Surveys by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and State wildlife agencies showed little change in populations of most of these game birds.

States in the Eastern dove management unit again may choose a bag limit for mourning doves of 18 daily and 36 in possession, in an experiment to measure the effect of hunting regulations on this species.

Because of a 48 percent increase in the breeding population, the season length on white-winged doves in Texas is increased from two to four half-days. Daily bag and possession limits remain 10 and 20.

The experimental nine-day season for band-tailed pigeons is continued in New Mexico and Arizona, and expanded to include portions of Colorado and Utah. Limits remain 5 and 10 and special permit requirements continue.

The limit on white-winged doves is reduced from 25 to 10 in Arizona because of poor habitat conditions. Habitat is being destroyed by the clearing of trees and shrubs from along streams.

The season length on Wilson's snipe is increased from 50 to 65 days and the framework closing date is extended from January 31 to February 15 for Wilson's snipe and woodcock. Limits remain unchanged.

Specific information on seasons may be obtained from State fish and game agencies. Full details of the Federal "framework" regulations were published in the Federal Register.

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